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£9 9s. from four fees. His purse received added substance from his salary as member of assembly, a position he secured through the influence of his father. The account-books tell us that he purchased all sorts of things: wine, rum, a teapot, "edging", "2 pieces of bobbin", as well as sugar, stockings, corn, and candlesticks. Here we read, also, that he lost and won money at cards, in social games, no doubt. Now it was "whist 30/", and "poker 6/", again it was "backgammon 6£", and still again, "Col. Monroe and self at the play 1—10". At nearly one and the same time he paid his dues to the parson, his subscription to the races, and his share in the expenses of the ball.

Dramatic power is one of Mr. Beveridge's strong qualities and it is well displayed in this book. He has known how to make the reader see and remember the kind of man he has in mind. He is not free from some of the evils of the striking writer. He strives for effects, probably without realizing it; and he frequently heightens the light to strengthen his picture. He is not a balanced thinker, and he shows little appreciation for understatement, the finest flower of scientific history. He does not see the other side of Jeffersonian republicanism. He characterizes the discontent for which Shays spoke as "the mobs erupting from this crater of anarchy now located in New England" (I. 299), and he does not seem to realize the yearning of the small farmers of the Middle and Southern States for their part in government that underlay the organization of the Republican party. Either love of effects or indifference to good usage leads him to employ many inept phrases. We read, for example, that a certain date "is jammed in" (I. 179), that "Pinckney rode Gerry hard" (II. 328), that Bushrod Washington "had no more political acumen than a turtle" (II. 413), that "the President grasped by the forelock this possibility for peace" (II. 423). Even "the reading public" has a right to expect that the historian shall do his part in preserving the dignity and chasteness of the language we use. Nor can I think of any line of reasoning by which the expression "bi-yearly" (I. 200) is justified. If it springs from hostility to the classics, why not demolish the prefix also? Mr. Beveridge can dominate the reader without employing such phrases.

JOHN SPENCER BASSETT.

With Americans of Past and Present Days. By J. J. JUSSERAND.
(New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1916. Pp. ix, 350.)

THE author of this book is an accomplished diplomat and scholar, and truly a representative of the French to the Americans. His sympathy with our history and especially with the alliance between France and the United States which won the Revolution has found expression in a book which must increase the friendly feeling between the two nations. For thirteen years, as he tells us in his preface, he has been the French ambassador at Washington, a longer service than any of his predecessors had, and during that time he has delivered several

addresses to American audiences which he has gathered together and now publishes.

Upon reading the book the first thought is, Why cannot Americans write as Mr. Jusserand has written? The sparkle and gracefulness of style are not shallowness and the play of humor is not flippancy. On the contrary, there is philosophy in the book and the serious purpose of the author is never lost sight of. Yet the narrative flows easily and the attention is pleasantly stimulated. You read with enjoyment and you remember what you have read. It is a pity that as much can be said of so few of our own writers of history.

The longest of the papers is that on "Rochambeau and the French in America", the chief basis for which is the unpublished Rochambeau papers and the transcript of Von Clausen's diary in the Library of Congress. To these American sources Mr. Jusserand has added his own familiarity with the careers of the French officers in France before and after the American war. Rochambeau died in his castle of Rochambeau in 1807 when he was eighty-two years old, luckier than many of his companions in the American war, for Lauzun, Custine, d'Estaing, Broglie, Dillon, and others perished under the guillotine.

Mr. Jusserand describes with good humor the prejudice which existed in America against the French and shows how it was overcome by the tact of the French officers and the good behavior of the French troops. The argument which runs through the essay is that the alliance was a disinterested act on the part of France inspired by enthusiasm for liberty and not by hatred for England. The quotations to this point are skillful and by themselves would establish it.

An example of the American prejudice against the French was General Washington himself, as Mr. Jusserand shows in his paper on "Washington and the French". When Washington heard of Lafayette's arrival he wondered what he should do with the Frenchman; but he admitted him and several other Frenchmen into his most affectionate regard, after he came to know them. The French estimate of Washington is brought out by Mr. Jusserand and especially what was said of him in that French epic poem on America by L. de Chavannes de La Grandière which preceded Joel Barlow's *Columbiad* by three years.

The essay "Major L'Enfant in the Federal City" throws much new light on L'Enfant himself and is the best presentation that has thus far been made of a subject on which a great deal has been written. Mr. Jusserand freely admits the contentious nature of L'Enfant, but insists upon his genius and the debt owed him for his plans of the National Capital.

The essay on "Abraham Lincoln" shows the French contemporaneous view of Lincoln and the sentiment for the Union cause which existed in France during our Civil War.

"The Franklin Medal", "Horace Howard Furness", and "From

War to Peace", which complete the volume, hardly belong in the category of history, but are none the less agreeable reading.

GAILLARD HUNT.

The Mississippi Valley in British Politics: a Study of the Trade, Land Speculation, and Experiments in Imperialism culminating in the American Revolution. By CLARENCE WALWORTH ALVORD. In two volumes. (Cleveland: The Arthur H. Clark Company. 1916. Pp. 358; 396.)

HISTORIANS have, for some time past, pretty well understood certain phases of British policy in dealing with the territory acquired from France by the Peace of Paris. Professor Alvord has himself published a study of the Proclamation of 1763. It is a commonplace that troops were retained in America to defend the new possessions, and that the Stamp Act was intended to raise money to pay for the troops. Some of the many projects for western colonies have been more or less carefully investigated; and twenty years ago Professor Coffin gave us an excellent history of the Quebec Act of 1774. But hitherto no one has attempted a comprehensive study of the many problems involved in the possession of the western territory, or of the British policy of dealing with these problems, during the whole period from the Peace of Paris to the opening of the Revolution. To this task Professor Alvord, as his friends very well know, has given many years of unwearied and enthusiastic research; and the two substantial volumes which embody the results of his labor constitute an important contribution to the literature of the American Revolution.

The book is not one of those which, being made by rule, might have been made by any intelligent and well-trained historical researcher. "Clarence W. Alvord, his Book"—this, if it were inscribed on the title-page, would not be a misnomer. "A glance at the 'Bibliography'", the author says, "will prove that the attempt has conscientiously been made" to master an immense mass of material. I have glanced at the bibliography without being convinced of anything except that a very comprehensive list of titles had been got together and printed, with intelligent comments by the compiler. But I have read the book carefully (not an altogether superfluous statement for a reviewer to make, I dare say), and with great interest, and this it was that convinced me that the author had not only made an attempt to master his material, but that he had very well succeeded, which is quite a different thing. He has so far mastered his material that he seems to know the events and the people he describes, and not simply to know about them. For example, he says that Hillsborough, in forming his interpretation of the Proclamation, "was influenced by its consequences rather than by its antecedents. Of the genesis and original purposes of its provisions he was and remained ignorant, obstinately so." This, particularly the casually